



USDA Rural Development

Southern New England

2014 Progress Report



At the February 2014 ceremony in Michigan to sign the 2014 Farm Bill, President Barack Obama remarked, "We are now better positioned for the 21st century than any other country on Earth." Supporting rural America has been a key goal for President Obama since he took office, as a strong rural economy is the foundation for a healthy American economy. I am proud to chair the White House Rural Council to help carry out President Obama's vision to strengthen rural communities, and I am proud that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made historic investments in rural America designed to drive job growth and ensure the development of a rural economy that is built to last.

USDA Rural Development provides loan and grant financing as well as technical assistance to develop housing, community facilities, businesses, infrastructure, and renewable energy ventures in rural areas. In addition to providing direct loan and grant assistance, USDA Rural Development also partners with private sector lenders and development organizations to carry out local community development projects. Rural Development's more than 40 financial assistance programs, in addition to its ability to leverage private sector resources, give USDA the flexibility to invest in a wide range of projects that are reinvigorating rural towns and bringing new job opportunities for local residents .

USDA Rural Development's 2014 Progress Report shows the inspiring and innovative work that is going on across rural America to help improve the quality of life for rural residents so that they can continue to thrive and prosper in America's heartland. Ultimately, USDA Rural Development's investments on behalf of rural people and places ripple outward to benefit all Americans, no matter where they are, through more abundant goods and services and a stronger economic base.

As I often say, USDA is not just about helping farms and farmers. USDA Rural Development's mission is a great example of the extraordinary reach of USDA programs throughout the rural economy. I hope you will enjoy learning more about USDA Rural Development's many successes in fiscal year 2014.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture



The vitality of rural America is critical to ensuring the strength of our economy, the affordability of our food, the independence of our energy supply, and the vibrancy of small communities. The Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that rural communities are economically strong, sound, and sustainable. I'm proud of the tremendous accomplishments of USDA Rural Development in fiscal year 2014 on behalf of America's rural communities.

Rural Development supported well over a million projects on behalf of rural individuals, families, business owners, agricultural producers and by managing a loan portfolio of more than \$200 billion for a wide range of rural needs. Our portfolio includes small investments of a few thousand dollars for home repairs, microloans to very small business owners, as well as multi-million-dollar, long-term investments to preserve and enhance municipal infrastructure systems, including high-speed broadband delivery. All these investments play a huge role in helping rural communities realize their economic potential and remain great places for families to live, work, and raise their children. We have helped more than 153,400 rural families become first time homeowners, and provided a lifeline to more than 10,000 low-income renters.

USDA Rural Development, many of our employees live and work in the same rural communities alongside our rural customers and stakeholder and partner organizations. We are truly fortunate and unique to serve rural America at the grassroots level. The investment work we do is important, and has lasting impacts both in rural America and for our overall economy. We look forward to continuing this work that improves the quality of life for rural residents and provides them with greater economic opportunities. We had great success delivering assistance to rural communities in 2014, and we look forward to a great 2015.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mensah

Under Secretary for Rural Development



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2014 USDA Rural Development Annual Report for southern New England.

When I assumed this office in 2009, our jurisdiction had 66 employees, presently we have 43. In spite of these budget and sequestration cuts, our focus remained on helping the people and the communities to improve their living standards. We, just like many people living in rural communities, first-hand witnessed the negative impact of the most recent recession that made the very act of putting bread on the table hard for so many families.

In 2014, we invested more than \$517 million in the rural economy of southern New England not only to provide affordable housing for impacted families, but also to create jobs, better prospects for education, and higher business stability in order to ensure better prospects for the future. These investments in critical rural infrastructure and economic development helped to bring rural America back on path toward sustainable long-term economic growth, a very important goal of our Obama Administration.

I would like to especially thank all of our RD employees who have accomplished so much in these very stressful budgetary times. All of us here at Rural Development Southern New England look forward to continued successful relationships with the communities and residents of our three-state jurisdiction. We are eager to continue working hard to help improve the quality of rural life in southern New England.

My Best,

Jay L. Healy

MA/CT/RI State Director

USDA Rural Development

The Year in Pictures



*USDA collaborated with Habitat of Cape Cod in building 8 new houses for very low income families.
Orleans, Mass.*



*CF Grant helped Nauset Regional High School to build a new greenhouse
North Eastham, Mass.*



*Pioneer Valley Chinese Charter School expansion CF Loan
Hadley, Mass.*



*CF Grant Helps Day Kimball Hospital purchase new equipment
Putnam, Conn.*



*RBEG Grant helps Bio-Energy Research Farm to Fly Initiative
Washington, D.C.*



*Earth Day 2014
Wagon Wheel Community Receives Funding
Brookfield, Mass.*

The Year in Pictures



*Ray of Light CF Loan
East Haddam, Conn.*



*Ray of Light CF Loan
East Haddam, Conn.*



*Hope & Main CF Loan
Warren, R.I.*



*Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Government
Center CF Loan
South Mashpee, Mass.*

*The new Quest Montessori School CF Loan
Narragansett, R.I.*



*State Directors of the Northeast Region
Hyannis, Mass.*



*Mashpee Wampanoag Government
Tribal Center
South Mashpee, Mass.*



compassion
& understanding...

*Latham Center CF Loan
Brewster, Mass.*



*Northeast State Directors Meeting
Hyannis, Mass.*



*Ribbon cutting for Mashpee Wampanoag
Tribal Government Center CF Loan
South Mashpee, Mass.*

Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

In fiscal year 2014, Rural Development invested more than \$5.6 million in Massachusetts rural businesses, supporting 10 projects. Business and Cooperative Programs serve Massachusetts communities by creating new business, growing production, maintaining jobs, conducting feasibility studies, improving rural energy development, creating professional business plans, and increasing revenue for rural business ventures.

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans	\$4,450,000
Intermediary Relending Program	\$1,000,000
Business Grants	\$202,000

Rural Development provided assistance to the rural businesses in Connecticut with over \$250,000 dollars in the form of grants for 5 projects.

Business Grants	\$257,609
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The rural businesses in Rhode Island were provided with \$68,000 dollars through 2 projects in the fiscal year of 2014.

Business Grants	\$68,000
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Rural Housing Programs

USDA Rural Development improved rural housing in **Massachusetts** with more than \$237 million in loans and grants to build, repair, rehabilitate, and purchase homes that ultimately improve the quality of life in rural Massachusetts. Rural Development provides funding for single-family homes, apartments for lower-income families or the elderly, and housing for farm laborers. In fiscal year 2014, the agency obligated 42 direct loans and 1,059 guaranteed loans to finance homes for rural Massachusetts families. (first paragraph Massachusetts)

Single Family Housing Direct Loans	\$7,923,065
Single Family Housing Guaranteed Home Repair Loans and Grants	\$217,582,874
Multi-Family Housing Direct Loans	\$188,082
Rental Assistance	\$1,593,548
	\$10,558,848

In **Connecticut**, the housing provided more than \$150 million in loans and grant to those in need. The agency obligated 19 direct, and 192 guaranteed loans to finance homes in the rural areas of Connecticut.

Single Family Housing Direct Loans	\$3,199,824
Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loans	\$139,033,797
Home Repair Loans and Grants	\$130,004
Multi-Family Housing Direct Loans	\$673,044
Rental Assistance	\$7,381,920

In **Rhode Island**, the agency assisted the community with over \$36 million. In 2014, there were 9 direct loans and 153 guaranteed loans obligated for rural Rhode Island.

Single Family Housing Direct Loans	\$2,030,000
Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loans	\$31,724,404
Home Repair Loans and Grants	\$49,600
Rental Assistance	\$2,537,472

Community Facilities Programs

During fiscal year 2014, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$6.6 million in rural **Massachusetts**, more than \$2.1 million in rural **Connecticut**, and more than \$1 million in rural **Rhode Island** through community facilities loans and grants. The total of 28 projects, including funding for schools and fire safety equipment, was used to benefit a great number of residents in these states. Community Facilities Programs help build, expand, rehabilitate, purchase, and support the development of police and emergency fire stations and equipment, museums, child care centers, hospitals, clinics, schools, and more.

Massachusetts	
Community Facility Direct Loans	\$6,174,000
Community Facility Grants	\$484,084

Connecticut	
Community Facility Direct Loans	\$21,386,000
Community Facility Grants	\$309,692

Rhode Island	
Community Facility Direct Loans	\$900,000
Community Facility Grants	\$113,900

Rural Utilities Programs

Massachusetts

USDA Rural Development invested more than \$20.7 million during fiscal year 2014 through 26 infrastructure projects to provide reliable and clean drinking water, waste treatment systems, electric power, and telecommunications services for rural areas in Massachusetts.

Water and Waste Direct Loans	\$11,343,000
Water and Waste Grants	\$9,423,500

Connecticut

During the fiscal year of 2014, Rural Development helped the residents of rural Connecticut with more than \$19.8 million through 12 programs.

Water and Waste Direct Loans	\$11,915,000
Water and Waste Grants	\$7,951,300

Rhode Island

Similarly, Rural development provided over \$14.7 million through 19 projects to improve the circumstance of the residents in rural Rhode Island.

Water and Waste Direct Loans	\$8,135,000
Water and Waste Grants	\$6,584,165

Contact Information



Massachusetts— www.rd.usda.gov/ma

Amherst State Office

Acting State Director: Mary Grasso
Mary.Grasso@ma.usda.gov
451 West St/Suite 2, Amherst, MA
Phone: 413-253-4300
Fax: 855-596-7673
Administers activity in the three state jurisdictions.

Holden Area Office

Area Director: Lyndon Nichols
Lyndon.Nichols@ma.usda.gov
52 Boyden Rd, Holden, MA 01520
Phone: 508-829-4477
Fax: 855-596-7672
Servicing: Worcester, Middlesex, and Suffolk counties

Hadley Area Office

Area Director: Lyndon Nichols
Lyndon.Nichols@ma.usda.gov
195 Russell St, Hadley, MA 01035
Phone: 413-585-1000
Fax: 855-596-7672
Servicing: Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden counties

West Wareham Area Office

Area Director: Tom McGarr
Tom.McGarr@ma.usda.gov
15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576
Phone: 508-295-5151
Fax: 855-596-7672
Servicing: Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket, and Barnstable counties



Connecticut— www.rd.usda.gov/ct

Windsor Area Office

Area Director: Johan Strandson
Johan.Strandson@ct.usda.gov
100 Northfield Dr, Windsor, CT 06095
Phone: 860-688-7725
Fax: 855-947-9638
Servicing: Tolland, Middlesex, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, and Fairfield counties

Norwich Area Office

Area Director: Johan Strandson
238 West Town St, Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-859-5218
Fax: 855-947-9638
Servicing: Windham and New London counties



Rhode Island— www.rd.usda.gov/ri

Warwick Area Office

Area Director: Tom McGarr
Tom.McGarr@ma.usda.gov
60 Quaker Lane/Suite 44, Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: 401-826-0842, Fax: 855-944-7488



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To File an Employment Complaint

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor (PDF) within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html.

To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers.

All Other Inquiries

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the USDA Agencies and Offices for specific agency information.